California Department of Water Resources' Mission...

human environments.

Pyramid Lake

To manage the water of California, in cooperation with other agencies, to benefit the state's people and protect, restore and enhance the natural and

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History

In 1843, gold was discoved near Pyramid Lake and in the Santa Feliciana Canyon, just south of what is now Pyramid Dam. But the small find failed to trigger a rush to the mountainous countryside. Only Francisco Lopes, owner of Rancho Temescal, a Mexican land grant, and a handful of ranchers attempted to settle the region.

Pyramid Lake and Dam, completed in 1973, wer named after a pyramid-shapedock carved out by engineers building the Old Highway 99. Tavelers between Los Angeles and Bakersfield christened the landmark "Pyramid Rock," which still stands just adjacent to the dam.

Powerplants

The Department of Water Resources owns and operates the Warne Powerplant. Locatedon the Gorman Creek arm of the lake, the powerplantelps meet the Project's need for electricity.

Taking advantage of the 739-foot $\mbox{\bf dp}$ to the lake surface, this plant, with a maximum rated capacity of 78 mega-



Warne Powerplant was designed to produce and conserve energy needed for pumping water through the State Water Project.

watts, can generate up to 358 million kilowatt-hours a year.

Water flowing from Pyramid Lake through the 7.2-mile-long Angeles Tinnel spins the turbines in Castaic Powerplant. The 30-foot-diameter tunnel carries water on its way to coastal Souther California to Castaic Lake, the final Project reservoir on the State Water Project's West Branch.

Castaic Powerplant generates electricity during onpeak periods (weekday daylight hours) when extra power is needed in the Los Angeles **202**. During of-peak periods



Pyramid Lake

(nights and Sundays) when local powisr cheaper the plant pumps water back into Pyramidake.

The operation also educes the cost of power required to move Poject water from Northern to Southern California. Castaic Powerplant is a cooperative ventue of DWR and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Recreation

Recreation Sites

Vaquero, located just below the **l**sta Del Lago Visitors Center, has a two-lane boat ramp, a beach, picnic areas, and **e**strooms.

Emigrant Landing, reached via Smokey Bear Road off-ramp from I-5, has a marina with boat rentals, an eight-lane boat launching ramp, a beach, and several picnic æas. Fishing is also accessible to wheelchair users.

Los Alamos Campground in lower Hungry Valley contains 93 family camping units and the group facilities.

Beaches and picnic sites **Spanish Point, Tin Cup, Bear Trap, Yellowbar,** and **Serrano** are reachable only by boat.

Fishing

Fishing is allowed everywher at Pyramid Lake. You can catch fish such as lge mouth bass, small

mouth bass, striped bass, blue gill, crappie, and some trout.

Boating

Boating speed limits dfer in parts of the lake. Canoes, rubber rafts and owboats are often seen in the canyons where power boats are restricted to low speeds. Higher speeds for waterskiingenallowed on the main body of the lake.

Water Levels

The reservoir's water level can change every day because Pyramid Lake povides regulated storage for Castaic Powerplant.



Boating is a popular sport at Pyramid Lake.

The recreation program at the lake is administered by a concessionair operating under an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service.

Vista Del Lago Visitors Center

Vista Del Lago Visitors Centeron Liebre

Peninsula is among Pyramid's ecreational points of interest. The 18,500- squaer-foot, Mediterranean-style building highlights interactive exhibits on California's water — its sources and its vital ole in the state's quality of life. To get to the center from Interstate 5, take the Vista Del Lago Road of-ramp.



Vista Del Lago Visitors Center overlooks Pyramid Lake

Information

The State Water Project

Planned, designed, constructed and operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the State Water Project (SWP) is the largest state-built, multipurpose water project in the United States. The SWP, spanning more than 600 miles from Northern California to Southern California, includes 32 storage facilities, 17 pumping plants, 3 pumping-generating plants, 5 hydroelectric power plants, and approximately 660 miles of canals and pipelines. (This doesn't include the East Branch Extension, located in Southern California, which is under construction.)

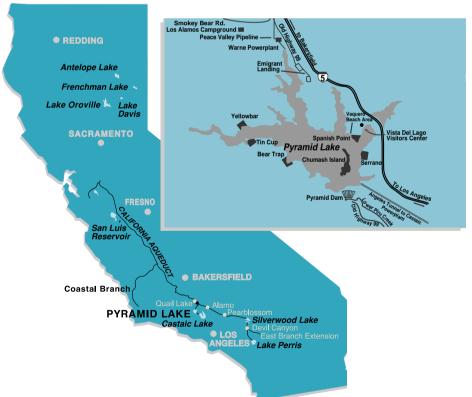
The SWP's main purpose is to provide a water supply -that is, to divert and store surplus water during wet periods
and distribute it to areas of need in Northern California, the
San Francisco Bay area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central
Coast, and Southern California. Other SWP purposes include
flood control, power generation, recreation, fish and wildlife
enhancement, and water quality improvement in the
Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta.

Twenty-nine urban and agricultural water agencies have long-term contracts for a maximum delivery of just over four million acre-feet of water per year. Of this amount, approximately 70 percent will go to urban users and 30 percent to agricultural users.

These SWP contracting agencies are repaying the full cost, plus interest, of financing, building, operating and maintaining the SWP water storage and delivery system.

Pyramid Lake

Pyramid Lake is located in the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests, about 60 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The lake's 21 miles of sheline and 1,297 aces of surface area spread out into long, amlike waterways and steep canyons. As reservoir of the SWP, Pyramid Lake stores water for delivery to Los Angeles and other coastal cities of Souther California. It also provides regulated storage for Castaic Powerplant, flood protection along Piru Creek which it dams, and recreational opportunities



Pyramid Lake and Dam Statistics

Lake

| Capacity 171,200 acre-feet |
|----------------------------|
| Surface |
| Shoreline |
| Maximum depth355 feet |

Dam

| Height |
|------------------------------|
| Elevation |
| Length |
| Volume 6,860,000 cubic yards |